

Sale and disinvestment of PSUs

231. SHRIMATI PRIYANKA CHATURVEDI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government has listed Public Sector Undertakings (PSUs) for disinvestment and sale during the current financial year;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the PSUs listed for sale and disinvestment include any profit-making PSUs also; and
- (d) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI ANURAG SINGH THAKUR): (a) to (d) Strategic Disinvestment/sale implies substantial sale of Government shareholding of CPSEs, along with transfer of management control. NITI Aayog has been mandated to identify CPSEs for strategic disinvestment. For this purpose, NITI Aayog applies the criteria of (i) National Security; (ii) Sovereign functions at arm's length, and (iii) Market Imperfections and Public Purpose, for identifying such CPSEs. Profitability/loss is not among the relevant criteria.

Based on the recommendations made by NITI Aayog since 2016, the Government has 'in principle' approved strategic disinvestment in 34 cases (some cases include subsidiaries and some cases include only units/plants). Out of these cases, strategic disinvestment transactions have been completed in 8 cases; 4 cases have been halted as CPSEs are under consideration for closure; 2 cases are held up due to litigation; and remaining 20 transactions are at various stages.

Besides, in certain other CPSEs, where Government continues to retain control, disinvestment of minority stake is made to increase public participation through various SEBI-approved methods such as Initial Public Offer (IPO), Offer for Sale (OFS), Buyback of shares and Exchange Traded Funds (ETFs) offers from time to time. Successful completion of disinvestment transactions is dependent on market condition and investors' interest.

Fall in GDP

232. SHRI RAVI PRAKASH VERMA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether GDP for April to June 2020 quarter has fallen to -23.9 per cent, the worst ever contraction of GDP in the history;